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conference in New York City on the subject of the nationalization of the public schools as the basis of inculcation of the international outlook in American youth and the preventative of such abuses as the recent inauguration of military training in the schools of New York State. In part, she said: "The American public school needs an official spokesman, a national department of education, which can speak with authority. Experts in education should decide what should go into the schools, and not the military, commercial, religious, or any other class of people. The office of the Commissioner of Education should be second to no other in our Government. The Commissioner should sit in the Cabinet of the President."

THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA.

In a titanic effort to gather in contributions for war relief from every church-goer in the nation, the Churches of Christ in America are sending out "A Second Message of Appeal to the American People." "The accelerating distress necessitates not a contribution, but a continuous movement of unselfish velocity," to assure even partial alleviation of the sufferings caused by war in every country of Europe and in Asia. Approximately twenty different relief funds are listed as deserving of contribution, and for others the contributor is referred to the list prepared by the Red Cross. Ministers were besought to urge united effort on the part of their church members on Citizenship Sunday, July 2.

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES DEPARTMENT.

This department acknowledges unqualified acceptance of the changes made in the constitution of the American Peace Society, and reports, through its energetic Director, Dr. J. J. Hall, much encouraging activity. In North Carolina the American Peace Society is to be fully represented at the Friends' Yearly Meeting, to be held at Guilford College. Several addresses have been made by the Director at different points in Tennessee during the last few weeks. In Florida especial activity is noted in the Florida Peace Society at Orlando, as reported by the secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott Christ. Several addresses have been arranged and a definite plan of publicity promoted. The Florida Society has made every effort to co-operate with the newly-formed State branch of the League to Enforce Peace, and a scheme of mutual aid and benefit is outlined.

THE NEW ENGLAND DEPARTMENT.

In June two addresses were delivered by Director Tryon at Lawrence and East Milton, and an opportunity was afforded to consult with a section of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union in discussion on the "Responsibilities of the United States Towards the European War." The Director has had the opportunity recently to confer with the executive officers of the New Hampshire and Vermont peace societies with reference to the work in these divisions.

FOR A "LEAGUE OF NEUTRAL NATIONS."

An appeal is received from M. Enrico Bignami, secretary of the executive committee of a "League of Neutral

Nations" proposed and in process of formation in Europe for the purpose of overcoming war. Citizens of all neutral countries are called upon to form and urge their governments to take the lead in this effort. The address of the secretary, to whom all communications bearing upon this organization are to be addressed, is given as Villa Coenobium, Lugano, Switzerland.

JOINING THE ISSUE

Controversy over a fact, affirmed by one side and denied by another, is known in law as an "issue." Taking up the two sides respectively is called "joining the issue." A great need of the peace movement in the argument with its opponents is first to "join the issue." With this aim in view this department was started in our August number, and it is hoped that many of our readers will be stirred to add their wisdom to this process of "joining the issue." Any intelligent contribution to the problem, if not too long, will be welcomed.—THE EDITOR.

The editors are not at liberty to give the names either of the writer or recipient of the following letter, but they gladly make that concession for the privilege of presenting it to their readers:

"JUNE 30, 1916.

"DEAR SIR: The pacifists, so hated and despised by the munition makers, are still an overwhelming majority in this country.

"They dominated the great Republican Convention in Chicago, and annihilated the little war lord there with his Wall street staff and phantom army of voters.

"They dominated the Democratic Convention at St. Louis to such an extent that Bryan found it easy to fly his doves, and your presence would have graced the occasion.

"They will dominate at the polls in November, and the party most distinctly for peace, whether Republican or Democratic, will be victorious. Don't let the little captains, with their guns and drums, disturb your judgment. I am sure they will not. No province of the old Roman Empire was ever looted by corrupt Proconsul more shamelessly than Mexico has been by the grabbers of all nations, among whom those of the United States stand *facile princeps*.

"I am not sure that the rich mines in which I myself am interested are not part of an ancient steal under the flimsy disguise of a Diaz concession. But whether they are or not, I will see them all in northeast hades before ever I give voice or vote for this Government to make war upon the unfortunate victims of greed, in its most shameless form, and of the most arrant tyranny that has disgraced the American continent since the days of Cortez.

"The indefensible fool superfluous war waged by Great Britain in the interests of Jew and Gentile speculators upon the little republics of South Africa becomes almost respectable in comparison with this proposition, which finds its chief support among the blood-money makers, bastard patriots, and the misguided zeal of good people deceived by them, backed by pot-house politicians and their camp followers.

"*Macte virtute!* There will be no war with Mexico."

The fireside inquisition is a torture that every parent has to suffer, but sympathy for the parent appearing in the following dialogue recently contributed to the *New York Times* is somewhat dulled in the breast of the pacifist reader by an appreciation of poetic justice. "Johnny Smithers," *loquitur*:

"Papa, what is a peaceful navy?"

"A peaceful navy, my boy, is a navy that is large enough and powerful enough to keep peace."

"How can it keep peace, papa?"

"By intimidating or subduing other navies."

"Should the United States have a peaceful navy?"

"Most certainly, Johnny."

"Should Great Britain have a peaceful navy?"

"Er-r, Johnny, don't you want to go and play with your new aeroplane?"

"No, papa. Should Great Britain have a peaceful navy?"

"Well—yes, I suppose so."

"Should every nation have a peaceful navy?"

"Look, Johnny, those boys are having lots of fun over there. Run along and play with them."

"Guess I don't want to go out now, papa. Should every nation have a peaceful navy?"

"You're not old enough to understand these things, my boy. Don't bother me."

"Well, papa, if another navy should attack our navy, and we should subdue it, wouldn't that be keeping peace?"

"Yes."

"And if the other navy was larger and powerfuller, and was to subdue ours, wouldn't that be keeping peace?"

Mr. Smithers quite disapproved of encouraging inquisitiveness in children, so he sternly bade Johnny be silent.

The next day Johnny proudly announced to his father that he had kept peace with Jimmy Jones.

"How was that, my son?" asked the parent, scrutinizing a dark crescent under the youngster's eye.

"Well," said Johnny, "I'm bigger and powerfuller than him, so I tried to intimidate him first, but he hit me, and then I just subdued him."

Articles on the cause of the war still filter in through the columns of the periodicals. Dr. Frank Crane, whose daily syndicated articles are read the country over, has recently endeavored to sort these out and tabulate a list of the main causes to which the war appears to be attributable. According to his estimate, these are:

1. Emperor William's personal ambition.
2. The Emperor had nothing to do with it; he was away from home when the trouble broke loose; it was caused by the military party of Germany.
3. It was not caused by the military party, but was the result of a popular uprising of all classes in Germany.
4. Servian intrigue, by which she was planning to disrupt Austria-Hungary.
5. Austria, that lusted to possess Servia.
6. Russia, that plotted to crush Austria and Germany and to rule all the Slavs.
7. Germany, by its invasion of Belgium.
8. Some French officers who rode over in automo-

biles into Belgium before the war, and thus violated the neutrality of that country.

9. Belgium, that was naughty to Germany and resisted the passage of the army over her fields.

10. England, that hated Germany, envied her achievements and stirred up the world against her.

11. England's hypocrisy and lying.

12. The war is the natural evolution of Germany's destiny, the plan of fate to spread German culture over the world.

13. Overpopulation in Germany. Too many German babies. Germany's rapidly increasing numbers had to have more room.

14. The whole war is the result of competition in commerce.

15. The conflict is traceable to the craft of the capitalist class.

16. The presence of great armaments, as in Germany and England.

17. The absence of great armament, as in Luxemburg.

18. The German desire for conquest.

19. The German desire to defend the fatherland.

20. French revenge.

21. The wish of the French to get back Alsace and Lorraine.

22. It was all a question of colonial expansion.

23. It was owing to the craving of the Kaiser and his people to have their place in the sun.

24. Whoever was at fault, it was somebody else.

25. Pure cussedness.

26. Nothing at all.

"Is it not singular," adds Dr. Crane, "that for the greatest crime since men were created they can give only about the same sort of excuses a wolf gives for killing sheep?"

One of the inexplicable manifestations of peace and war times alike is the ease with which men and women of the older generations turn to the thoughts of violence, retaliation, "an eye for an eye," and the maintenance of "national honor" at the cost of many lives, in comparison with the spirit of toleration and good temper evinced by the younger generation. The following brief poem from the British *Labour Leader* does not explain this, save by possible inference, but it is worth quoting as an admirable presentation of this phenomenon:

THE YOUNG AND THE OLD.

The Young Man lay in the trenches,
In the mud and the blinding rain,
Death in the earth and death in the air,
And hunger and cold and pain;
Blood on his hands and blood on his soul,
From the murder that could not cease.
And the Young Man said, while the guns flashed red,
"Peace! God give us peace!"

The Old Man sat in the smoke-room,
Withered and lank and lean,
Far from the hell of the bursting shell,
And the sea and the ships between;
Safe his old worthless carcass,
Safe his old worthless life,
And the Old Man said, while the young men bled,
"War! War to the knife!"

—A Conscript.